

**Statement of Juan Rodriguez**  
**Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**April 28, 2026**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Kaine, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as the President's nominee to serve as Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Guatemala. I am honored by President Trump's trust in me with this nomination and am mindful of the responsibility to put the interests of the American people first in every aspect of this role.

I want to introduce and thank my wife, MarvieAnn, and my children, Marissa and Ethan, for being here today. I am grateful to my family for their support. Representing the United States abroad is among the highest responsibilities our nation can bestow, and I approach this nomination with humility and respect for the important and time-honored role of this Committee and the constitutional role of the Senate.

Guatemala is a vital partner in Central America, bound to the United States by deep economic ties, shared democratic aspirations, and strong people-to-people connections. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our engagement reflects both our strategic priorities and our enduring commitment to economic growth and regional stability.

Guatemala matters to the United States because what happens there directly affects our security, our economy, and our border. If confirmed, my approach will be grounded in a clear principle: U.S. engagement must deliver concrete results for Americans, including safer communities, compelling economic opportunities, and a more secure and prosperous hemisphere.

I will prioritize the protection of U.S. citizens and the security of our personnel in Guatemala.

American taxpayer dollars must be used transparently and effectively to advance our interests. I will insist on accountability, discipline, and measurable outcomes in all U.S.-funded programs and Embassy activities in Guatemala.

My efforts will advance America First foreign policy priorities:

First, migration must be addressed with urgency and realism. Illegal immigration from Guatemala strains our border, resources, and communities. I will press for even stronger cooperation with the Guatemalan government to stop illegal immigration, disrupt human smuggling networks, and ensure the prompt return of those who do not have legal basis to stay in the United States. Our message will be clear: illegal immigration is not a pathway to entry.

Second, economic engagement must support American workers, businesses, and producers. I will advocate for stronger enforcement of trade rules, aim to reverse unfair practices and promote opportunities for U.S. companies to compete and win. Expanding economic opportunity in Guatemala can reduce incentives for illegal immigration, but it must be done in a way that strengthens American competitiveness.

Third, security cooperation will focus on results. Transnational criminal organizations, narcotics traffickers, and gangs – including those designated as foreign terrorist organizations– threaten both our nations. I will work to ensure that our security partnerships are targeted and effective to deliver on U.S. priorities to reduce the flow of drugs into our country, dismantle criminal networks, and enhance regional stability.

Lastly, China's economic expansion in the Western Hemisphere threatens U.S. national security, prosperity, and critical supply chains. I will work to ensure Guatemala can be a key bulwark against Chinese influence in the region.

If confirmed, I will bring a clear-eyed, results-driven approach to this role. I will work closely with Congress to ensure transparency and accountability, and I will not lose sight of who I serve: the American people. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your questions.